

Real Jobs RI 2017 Planning Grant Awardees

Real Jobs RI is Rhode Island's workforce development initiative that invites employers within a specific industry or region to come together to identify common workforce challenges. Planning Grants are the first step in developing strategic demand-driven workforce development systems that meet the needs of Rhode Island's employers. These systems train workers for available *real jobs* of today and in the future. Planning Grants provide seed money up to \$20,000 to:

- Assemble strategic partnerships within an industry or region;
- Identify workforce challenges that employers face in that industry;
- Identify training, education and human resource needs to address these challenges;
- Develop a detailed strategic workforce training plan to implement those solutions.

In April 2017, the Department of Labor and Training awarded eight (8) Planning Grants in five (5) industries.

The award of Planning Grants will be followed by the solicitation and award of Implementation Grants. The 2017 Implementation Grant Solicitation will open in April 2017 and will close in June 2017.

Those who have not received a Planning Grant may apply for an Implementation Grant.

Please see the complete list below of 2017 Planning Grant Awardees by industry.

AGRICULTURE

Investing and Strengthening Workforce Development in "Green Collar" Jobs

Lead Applicant: The RI Nursery and Landscape Association

Employers Partners: Central Nurseries, Clark Farms, The Farmer's Daughter

Strategic Partners: URI, CCRI, Chariho, Foster-Gloucester, Narragansett

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Abstract: The partnership's purpose is to organize this broad industry to address identified skill gaps and develop a well-articulated career lattice with needed training opportunities. The long-term goal is to collaboratively develop and vet a plan for pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and a two-year degree program training pathway leading to job placement and career opportunities with living wages.



BIOSCIENCE

Process Technologists of the Future

Lead Applicant: RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner/ Westerly Education Center

Employers Partners: Pfizer, Thielsch Engineering, Eurofins Scientific

Strategic Partners: RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner/ Westerly Education Center, CCRI

Grant Amount: \$19,100

Abstract: The purpose of the partnership is to meet the growing needs of local employers in the bioscience industry, and to establish a center of excellence for training process technologists. There are not enough Rhode Islanders who meet the job qualifications for skilled process technologists. As a result, these jobs are being filled by non-Rhode Island residents, positions remain vacant for long periods, companies need to provide in-housing training which they are unprepared and unqualified to do, and companies lose money when the trainees quit before the training is completed.



COMMERCIAL FISHING

Commercial Fisherman Apprenticeship Program (CFAP)

Lead Applicant: East Farm Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island (CFCRI)

Employers Partners: Fox Fisheries, The Town Dock, Spencer Fish & Lobster, Goldenwood Fisheries, Ocean State Fisherman's Association, RI Commercial Fisherman's Association, RI Lobsterman's Association, RI Shellfisherman's Association, RI Monkfisherman's Association, Point Judith Memorial Foundation, Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association, RI Party & Charter Boat Association

Strategic Partners: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, University of Rhode Island Fisheries Center, North East Safety Training Company, Superior Trawl, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island Engine Company, Superior Trawl Inc., Trawl Works, Tri-County Community Action.

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Abstract: This partnership ventures to recruit and train unemployed state residents in an effort to provide them with skills necessary to be a viable crewmember and hold a full-time employment position, since there is a shortage of commercial fisherman entering the industry. This program will provide a resource that is no longer available for workers who want to enter into this industry and become the next generation of wild seafood harvesters.



Fostering Clean Energy Talent for Delivered Fuel and Services Companies

Lead Applicant: Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island

Employers Partners: Sunshine Fuels & Energy, Bousquet/Consumers Propane

Strategic Partners: Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, New England Institute of Technology, Rhode Island Oil & Energy Service Providers, Rhode Island Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors, Propane Gas Association of New England

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Abstract: This partnership includes employers, educational institutes, trade associations and state agencies to establish a strategic plan that fosters development of new educational curriculum, targeted apprenticeship programs, and clean energy licensing/certification programs for fuel dealer/service companies. Delivered fuel companies have a unique opportunity to expand into the growing energy efficiency and renewable heating and cooling sectors.

Rhode Island Wind Energy Technology Employment Training System

Lead Applicant: North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce

Employers Partners: Carmoin Associates, New Commons

Grant Amount: \$19,400

Abstract: The purpose of the partnership is to develop a strategic, demand-driven workforce development system that meets the needs of Rhode Island's employers and trains local workers for permanent placements within the wind technology industry. It will determine workforce capacity and readiness analysis by defining competencies for an emerging Rhode Island wind energy workforce, research the best wind energy training programs across the country that can be applied to Rhode Island educational and training systems, and design a workforce training plan and a classroom instruction process that prepares students to successfully enter the industry.

Solar PV Industry

Lead Applicant: Office of Energy Resources

Employers Partners: Bright Planet Solar, Newport Solar, Trinity Solar, SunWatt Solar, Clean Energy Collective, SolarFlair

Strategic Partners: RI Commerce Corp., BW Research, Northeast Clean Energy Council, Cadmus Group, Opportunities Industrialization Center of RI, RI Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors

Grant Amount: \$18,000

Abstract: This partnership seeks to address two challenges (identified in the 2016 Clean Energy Industry report) by increasing the number of trained solar sales representatives as well as creating a pipeline of electricians for entry into the solar PV workforce.

Sustainable Energy Economics and Management Partnership

Lead Applicant: URI Cooperative Extension

Employers Partners: Optimal Energy, Jerry Drummond (National Grid), Wind Energy Development LLC

Strategic Partners: Social Enterprise Greenhouse, CommerceRI, URI Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, RI Office of Energy Resources, Ron Gerwatowski

Grant Amount: \$19,999

Abstract: This partnership will identify critical skills gaps, core competencies and workforce needs to incorporate into the well-established URI Energy Fellowship Program training initiatives to assure that the program is providing relevant training to students seeking employment with RI clean energy businesses.

+ HEALTHCARE

Providence Healthcare and Social Assistance Workforce Initiative

Lead Applicant: City of Providence Office of Economic Opportunity

Employers Partners: Care NE, Children's Friend, RI Health Center Association, ReFocus, CCAP

Strategic Partners: Skills for Rhode Island's Future, RIC, Stepping Up, Genesis Center, RI Nurse's Institute Middle College, Apprenticeship RI

Grant Amount: \$19,670

Abstract: This partnership will identify existing and projected high-level occupations needed at partner employees in the healthcare and social assistance industry. The skills needed for these occupations will be identified and will inform training curricula to ensure trained workers will have the skills, aptitude, and credential requirements to meet the needs of employers.